Pandemic Planning Update VIII July 16, 2008

Michigan Department of Community Health

Janet Olszewski
Director and Health Officer

Jean Chabut Deputy Director Public Health





A Message from Michigan Department of Community Health

Dr. Corrine Miller, State Epidemiologist

Dr. Eden Wells Dr. James Averill
Pandemic Influenza Coordinator Deputy Pandemic Influenza Coordinator

The World Health Organization (WHO) pandemic influenza alert phase remains at a 3: *No or very limited human-to-human transmission*. There are no new clusters of human cases. The threat from avian influenza A (H5N1) of becoming a pandemic influenza is possible as the virus continues to circulate internationally in poultry, wild birds and humans.

Inter – pandemic phase	Low risk of human cases	1
New virus in animals, no human	Higher risk of human cases	2
cases		
	No or very limited human-to-human	3
	transmission	
Pandemic Alert	Evidence of increased human-to-human	4
	transmission	
New virus causes human cases	Evidence of significant human-to-human	5
	transmission	
Dandamia	Efficient and sustained human-to-	6
Pandemic	human transmission	

http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/phase/en/index.html

Since March, Indonesia, Vietnam, and Egypt continued to report human cases of H5N1 avian influenza. In addition, Bangladesh reported its first human cases of H5N1 from January 2008. Uncertainty remains regarding whether highly pathogenic avian influenza A (H5N1) strain will mutate into the next pandemic strain. It is also unknown when a pandemic may occur. Research continues on the virus, development of a vaccine and expediting the manufacturing of influenza vaccines.

On April 3, WHO issued a final report concerning a cluster of human H5N1 avian influenza cases in November 2007 from Pakistan. WHO concluded that limited human-to-human transmission of this virus likely occurred between four family members, in a manner similar to previously described clusters. Importantly, there was no evidence of secondary transmission or spread to the community. For the entire report, visit http://www.who.int/csr/don/2008_04_03/en/index.html.

Monitoring and Surveillance

Global Status

Since our last update (February 29, 2008), there have been an additional 28 human cases and 19 fatalities. As of June 19, 2008, there are 385 confirmed human cases of avian influenza H5N1 in 15 countries, with 243 deaths in 12 countries since 2003.

Poultry outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 continue to occur with recent outbreaks in Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Russia, Turkey, and Vietnam. In addition, the United Kingdom reported an outbreak due to highly pathogenic avian influenza H7N7. For up-to-date reports, visit the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) website on avian influenza.

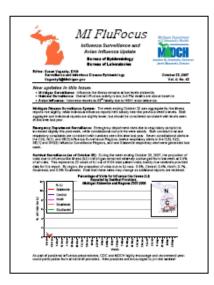
Highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza has recently been reported in wild birds in Japan and Switzerland. No new countries have reported H5N1 infections in either wild birds or domestic poultry.

National Status

Wild bird surveillance for highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 is ongoing. Testing for the 2007 season concluded in March 2008; all results for the approximately 96,000 specimens collected were negative for highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1. The 2008-2009 testing season will run from April 1, 2008 to March 31, 2009. Currently, over 9000 birds have already been tested this season. You can monitor this surveillance at http://wildlifedisease.nbii.gov/ai/.

Monitoring for cases of H5N1 in humans and domestic poultry are conducted by CDC and USDA/poultry industry respectively.

Michigan Status



As part of the National Avian Influenza Surveillance effort, wild bird testing in Michigan is ongoing, with approximately 380 samples tested this season. As part of the National Poultry Improvement Plan, commercial flocks in Michigan continue to test birds for avian influenza prior to shipment.

Human influenza surveillance is being conducted year-round by MDCH. Several tools are used to monitor influenza: Sentinel Physicians, Sentinel Laboratories, Syndromic reports and individual

reports into the Michigan Disease Surveillance System (MDSS). Weekly reports on influenza are reported in the *MI-FluFocus* report and can be found at www.michigan.gov/flu

MDCH Preparedness Activities February 2008 to May 2008 Collaboration and Planning

- The Michigan Pandemic Influenza Coordinating Committee (PICC), consisting of representatives from state agencies, is working on a coordinated response to a potential pandemic influenza outbreak. The group has developed the PICC Annual Report 2006-2007 that was presented by the MDCH Director, Janet Olszewski to the Governor and cabinet members on February 5, 2008. This report contains a list of challenges and recommendations that have been identified by the subcommittees and working groups regarding pandemic influenza preparedness issues at the State level. A copy of this report has been forwarded to every Local Health Officer in the state. The PICC and its sub-committees will continue to meet in 2007-2008.
- The PICC Steering Group asked each state agency to submit Emergency
 Action Guidelines (EAGs) for pandemic influenza. These EAGs are
 dependent on the World Health Organization (WHO) pandemic influenza alert
 phases, and outline the agency's operational activities for each WHO Phase.
 The EAGs will be incorporated into the Michigan Emergency Management
 Plan in 2008.
- MDCH continues to participate in Regional State Partners teleconference calls to pandemic coordinators from surrounding states and Ontario, Canada. These quarterly meetings allow for sharing of planning and preparedness ideas across state and/or international borders.
- MDCH is developing four 10 to 20 minute video vignettes on influenza that will be available on the michigan.gov/flu website in late March. The four videos cover; Influenza 101, Seasonal Influenza, Avian Influenza, and Pandemic Influenza.
- MDCH, MI-OSHA and Office of the State Employer are developing guidance for pandemic influenza protection in the state workplace. The group has been working on this for the past year and hopes to have a product for use by state employees and their human resource departments in early 2008.